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# Message Text

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PAGE 01 KIGALI 01045 230714Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 AID-05 EUR-12 /094 W
----------012828 230718Z /14
R 221417Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
SECSTATE WASHDC 5159

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 1045

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CG, RW
SUBJECT: NGUZI'S FATE

REF: KIGALI 1043

1. ANOTHER INDICATION OF RWANDAN AGITATION OVER FATE OF EX-COMMISSIONER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS NGUZI: CMDT RUSATIRA, CHEF DE CABINET AT DEFMIN, ASKED ME TODAY FOR MY IMPRESSIONS OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN ZAIRE. I SAID I THOUGHT IT WAS TOO BAD NGUZI WAS BEING SO SEVERELY PUNISHED FOR FAILING TO REPORT INVASION RUMORS WHICH IN FACT HAD BEEN PUBLISHED IN EUROPEAN PRESS.

2. RUSATIRA SAID HE THOUGHT MOBUTU'S REAL PURPOSE WAS TO NEUTRALIZE NGUZI AS A THREAT TO HIS OWN POSITION. NGUZI HAD BEEN "BRAINS BEHIND THE THRONE" AND LEADING CANDIDATE TO REPLACE MOBUTU WHEN TIME CAME, SAID RUSATIRA, AND HIS STRENGTH HAD BEEN PROVEN DURING SHABA INVASION WHEN KATANGANS PROMISED TO LAY DOWN ARMS AND REMAIN PART OF ZAIRE IF NGUZI WERE PUT IN CHARGE. WITH ELECTIONS AHEAD, RUSATIRA CONTINUED, AND WITH OTHER GOVT OFFICIALS ENCOURAGED TO RUN FOR OFFICE,
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MOBUTU COULDN'T RISK POSSIBILITY OF NGUZI'S CHALLENGING HIM FOR PRESIDENCY.

3. RUSATIRA CONTINUED THAT, IN HIS VIEW, CENTRIFUGAL PROBLEMS WOULD CONTINUE IN ZAIRE UNTIL KINSHASA REALIZED ITS OWN BEST INTEREST LAY IN GRANTING SOME AUTONOMY TO KATANGA, UNDER A STRONG LEADER LIKE NGUZI WHO COULD STILL BE EXPECTED TO REMAIN

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LOYAL TO KINSHASA. (RUSATIRA NOTED SIMILAR PROBLEM IN RWANDA'S EFFORTS AT REGIONAL COOPERATION WITH KIVU, WHICH GRZ KEPT ON SHORT AND NEGLIGENT STRING).

4. COMMENT: RUSATIRA SAID NOTHING OF FONMIN'S TRIP TO KINSHASA, BUT I STRONGLY SUSPECT HE WAS ECHOING PRESIDENT'S OWN CONCERN FOR EVENTS IN ZAIRE AND HIS PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH MOBUTU.

5. DRAFTER: AMB.
CRIGLER

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NNN

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# Message Attributes

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**Disposition History:** n/a
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**Review Markings:**
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